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1 MR. JOE MARUCA: Okay. All accept for one. This
2 is how long?

3 Well, what they've got to do -- and the other
4 issue that's been talked about is water. Water is the --
5 the water that goes to the New River, flows into -- is a
6 very vital element of the Salton Sea, which is under siege.
7 The huge percentage of that water is going to be too huge,
8 to large a percentage of that water is going to be used, is
9 being used to cool those down. And you don't necessarily
10 need that and you can do it in other ways. We've got to
11 stop them from using that water, diverting the water before
12 it gets to the Salton Sea. We have got to make them do
13 offsets here.

14 When I originally talked to Sempra
15 representatives, I said -- the guy was, I forget his name,
16 Bob, whatever was his name, he was a real slick guy. I
17 said: Bob, build your plant in Imperial County. I'll be
18 the first to support you. Pay your U.S. taxes. Pay
19 prevailing wages, U.S. wages. Do the offsets in the United
20 States.

21 You know, well, that, of course, doing it in
22 Mexico for obvious reasons. They don't have to do any of
23 the above. So let's force them now not to use that water,
24 let's force them to do offsets here in the United States.

25 Obviously, we're never going to be able to stop

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1 those plants from operating. They are in Mexico. We can do
2 something about: If you don't do this, you can't move this
3 across the grid. And the only thing I think we can do right
4 now is offsets. Let's make them do offsets here.

5 I would submit, in closing, no way in hell that
6 those plants would be built in Tijuana with that pipeline
7 going through San Diego without offsets and all kinds of
8 things happening over there, because those people have
9 political power and we don't and that's where they're here.
10 And they ought to pay the price for that.

11 My son wakes up in the morning and starts
12 coughing. If you go to the elementary schools around here
13 you will see the cabinets full of asthma medicine, cough
14 medicine, allergy medicines. I don't blame that all on
15 Sempra and Intergen, but that's another ingredient. So
16 let's do something to help stop this now.

17 Thank very much for your time.

18 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you, Mr. Maruca.

19 Brad Poiriez.

20 MR. BRAD POIRIEZ: Thank you.

21 Brad Poiriez, P-O-I-R-I-E-Z, senior manager with
22 Imperial County Air Pollution Control District. Thanks for
23 the time.

24 It's hard to follow up the good, passionate
25 comments from Joe, but I have some myself, also, for the air

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1 district.

2 First and foremost, the ICAPCD, which is Imperial
3 County Air Pollution Control District, continues to feel
4 very strongly that the operation of the two power plants and
5 their associated transmission lines will have an adverse
6 impact on air quality in Imperial/Mexicali valleys, and this
7 is why we adamantly disagree with the DOE's proposed action
8 of granting presidential permits to the power plants as
9 their projects are currently designed.

10 The ICAPCD favors a Modified Alternative No. 4
11 Proposal for the granting of the permits that would require
12 mitigation and offset measures for the increased emissions
13 associated with these plants.

14 The ICAPCD believes that DOE should ensure that
15 off-site mitigation measures should take place in Imperial
16 County. As a matter of fact, ICAPCD worked with DOE in
17 suggesting several measures that should be considered in
18 that fact.

19 The ICAPCD believes this is necessary to continue
20 our goal of improving the air quality and protecting the
21 health of the residents of Imperial County.

22 The ICAPCD continues to have several concerns that
23 we believe should be addressed in the final EIS. I'm only
24 going to touch on a few, since you already received my final
25 and formal comment letter.

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1 Number one, a comprehensive evaluation of the air
2 quality of Imperial County and Mexicali addressing all, and
3 I emphasize all, monitoring data used to evaluate the
4 compliance data with both areas with the National Ambient
5 Air Quality Standards, NAAQ, not just an annual arithmetical
6 means used to attempt to diminish the magnitude of the air
7 quality status here.

8 Over the past several years monitoring data has
9 shown several, even hundreds, of violations of the National
10 Ambient Air Quality Standards for Mexicali. And it should
11 be pointed out that Mexicali is also in violation of the
12 Mexican standards, which are similar to the U.S. Federal
13 standards. The levels of pollutants in Mexicali has been
14 characterized as critical by the Mexican authorities. And I
15 touched on that a little bit further in my formal comment
16 letter on Page 3.

17 The public should be presented with reliable,
18 clear monitoring data in order to make an accurate judgment
19 of the air quality where they live. We need the real
20 factual data to be out there so these people can make a
21 qualified judgment of where they are going to live.

22 The approach used by DOE to evaluation ozone
23 formation is suspect. Background data on VOC is needed and
24 DOE analyzed five years of ozone and NOx monitoring data and
25 concluded that ozone levels mainly occurred at lower NOx

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1 levels and the plots used indicates a condition in which
2 introducing more NOx reduces ozone formation.
3 DOE's conclusions characterized Imperial
4 county/Mexicali as being VOC limited, and which by
5 introducing more NOx, there would be no increase of ozone is
6 ludicrous when, in fact, the reverse could be true.

7 We are truly dumbfounded by these conclusions and
8 seriously hope that the DOE does not mean by not installing
9 selective catalytic reduction, SCR, to control NOx at the
10 turbines could, in fact, resolve the ozone problem in
11 Mexicali and Imperial Valley. That would be ludicrous, like
12 I said before. It's just inconceivable.

13 Emissions inventories data shows that the level of
14 emissions from VOC is approximately three times higher than
15 the level of admissions for nitrogen oxide. This would not
16 lend itself to characterize the Imperial County/Mexicali
17 area to be VOC limited. The emission inventories numbers
18 show contradiction to the DOE ozone formation assumptions.
19 You're contradicting yourselves.

20 DOE also attempted to compare impacts to EPA
21 significant levels for the NOx, SOs, CO and PM-10 emissions
22 produced by the power plants. By using 40 CFR 51.165 (b) (2)
23 DOE concluded that the maximum ambient concentration of air
24 pollutants in Imperial County associated with the power
25 plants are below significant levels established by the EPA;

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1 therefore, stating the impacts on air quality from the power
2 plants would be minimal.

3 By using this section of the CFR, DOE assumed that
4 Mexicali is a hypothetical attainment area. The ICAPCD
5 wants to stress that 40 CFR 51.165 (b) (2) is not applicable
6 to new sources in a nonattainment area, Mexicali, that are
7 impacting an adjacent nonattainment area, Imperial County.
8 And, in fact, the next paragraph of the 40 CFR states so
9 explicitly.

10 Due to the fact that the Mexicali power plants are
11 located in a nonattainment area and their emissions will
12 impact an adjacent nonattainment area, the ICAPCD feels the
13 correct approach for evaluating emissions impacts should be
14 the Clean Air Act, Section 173. This section identifies the
15 requirements for new and modified sources located in
16 nonattainment areas. Section 173 (c) (1) requires that any
17 new or modified source of emissions located in a
18 nonattainment area to offset their emissions for which that
19 area is nonattainment.

20 We feel that the DOE must rigorously follow the
21 requirements in the Clean Air Act and not simply choose the
22 requirements that they feel will achieve the end result that
23 DOE is apparently looking for, no significant impact.

24 This is just a few of our concerns with the DEIS,
25 which we address in much more detail in our formal comment

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1 letter.

2 I want to stress, again, ICAPCD believes there
3 should be mitigation measures implemented to offset the
4 increased emissions and these measures should be
5 memorialized in the presidential permits and ensure that the
6 off-site mitigation measures take place here in Imperial
7 County.

8 To close, we look forward to reviewing a much more
9 sound final EIS that will fully address all of our concerns
10 as outlined in our formal response letter. For the health
11 of the residents of Imperial/Mexicali Valleys and for the
12 continued efforts to improve air quality in Imperial County,
13 we insist that full mitigation of the impacts of these
14 projects be fully mitigated, including placing provisions in
15 the presidential permits for monitoring, recordkeeping and
16 enforcement provisions based on our experience with
17 Interger's failure to install SCR on one of the two
18 turbines, as Joe mentioned earlier; and the fact that
19 Mexicali authorities were, apparently, unaware that Interger
20 had even had an obligation to install and operate SCR on the
21 unit. The permit conditions must clearly state that
22 monitoring data should be supplied to the EPA and the
23 ICAPCD.

24 For issuance of the presidential permits, we urge
25 DOE to implement a version of Alternative No. 4 that would

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1 require full mitigation and offset of all emissions and that
2 these offsets take place in Imperial County.

3 Thanks for your time.

4 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you.

5 Mr. Robert Ham.

6 MR. ROBERT HAM: Good morning. My name is Robert
7 Ham, H-A-M. I serve as the executive director for the
8 Imperial Valley Association of Governments.

9 I want to begin by telling you that it isn't the
10 intent of the people in Imperial Valley to deprive the
11 coastal cities of badly needed power. It is our intention
12 to ensure that some sense of environmental justice prevails
13 in this process.

14 When DOE was last here for scoping meetings,
15 several of our elected officials spoke to you and urged the
16 adoption of Alternative 4 in the interest of seeking
17 environmental justice. We presented a strong rationale for
18 adopting this position.

19 We have documented that, but for these
20 transmission lines, the power plants would not have a market
21 and, therefore, would not operate. Accordingly, you must
22 consider the operation of the power plants and their
23 resulting emissions as part of the project you are
24 reviewing.

25 Because we live in an area that is considered

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